

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to better define the claimed invention and better distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art cited in the Final Action of March 27, 2007. Claim 22 has been amended to correct the typographical error noted by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been cancelled in favor of new independent claim 23 which incorporates the limitations of claims 13-16 and 18-20, which the Examiner indicated were allowable over the art. Additionally, independent claim 5 has been amended to specify that the release sites are a stomach or intestines of a patient's alimentary canal, and that the adhesive comprises a mucosal adhesive layer. It is submitted that none of the applied art teaches or suggests the combination as recited in claim 5, as amended. In fact, Lerner et al. cited as teaching a drug-containing patch having an adhesive is designed for adherence to hard tensile surfaces such as teeth and dentures, and releases active pharmaceutical agents into the oral cavities. Thus, no combination of the art applied against claim 5 reasonably could be said to achieve or render obvious claim 5, or the several claims dependent thereon.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

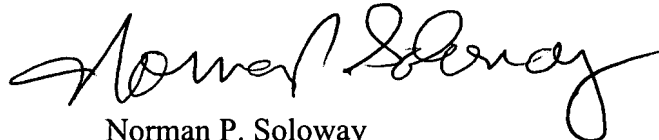
Enclosed is Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$100.00 to cover the cost of one added independent claim, and \$395.00 to cover the cost of the RCE.

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In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

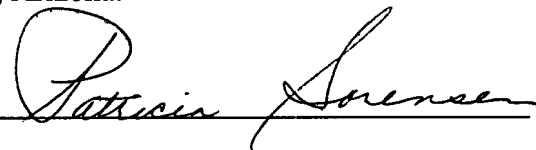
Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 13, 2001, at Tucson, Arizona.

By 

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